

Governor

Department of Health

Public

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D. Acting Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N. Executive Deputy Commissioner

January 21, 2015

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

James W. Goodni ht. M.D.

Re: License No. 247600

Dear Dr. Goodnight:

Enclosed is a copy of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (BPMC) Order No. 15-010. This order and any penalty provided therein goes into effect January 28, 2015.

If the penalty imposed by this Order is a surrender, revocation or <u>suspension</u>, you are required to deliver your license and registration within five (5) days of receipt of this Order to: c/o Physician Monitoring Unit, NYS DOH - OPMC, Riverview Center, Suite 355, 150 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204-2719.

If your license is framed, please remove it from the frame and only send the parchment paper on which your name is printed. Our office is unable to store framed licenses.

If the document(s) are lost, misplaced or destroyed, you are required to submit to this office an affidavit to that effect. Please complete and sign the affidavit before a notary public and return it to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct.

Please direct any questions to: NYS DOH - OPMC, Riverview Center, Suite 355, 150 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204-2719, telephone # (518)402-0855.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Hawkins, M.D., J.D.

Executive Secretary

Board for Professional Medical Conduct

cc: William J. Volonte, Esq. Oxfeld Cohen, P.C. 60 Park Place, Suite 600 Newark, NJ 07102

Enclosure

NEW YORK STATE STATE BOARD FOR PROF	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT	BPMC No. 15-010
IN THE MATTER		CONSENT
	OF	ORDER
JAMES W.	GOODNIGHT, M.D.	
	of JAMES W. GOODNIGHT , M.D. (Respect of this Consent Order, it is	pondent), in the attached Consent
ORDERED, that the	Consent Agreement, and its terms, are a	adopted and it is further
ORDERED, that this	Consent Order shall be effective upon is	ssuance by the Board, either by
	nsent Order, either by first class mail to R	
	nt or by certified mail to Respondent's atto	
upon facsimile or email tran	smission to Respondent or Respondent's a	ttomey, whichever is first.
SO ORDERED.		
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	The second secon	

DATE: 1/20/2015

Carmela Torrelli Vice Chair State Board for Professional Medical Conduct

IN THE MATTER	CONSENT
OF	AGREEMENT
JAMES W. GOODNIGHT, M.D. CO-13-12-7591-A	
JAMES W. GOODNIGHT, M.D., (Respondent), representi statements ere true, deposes end says:	ing that ell of the following
That on or about February 11, 2008, I was authorized to policy. New York, end issued license number 247600 by the New York S	
My current eddress is	and I will advise the
Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct of any cher (30) days, thereof.	nge of my address within thirty
I understand that the New York State Board for Profession	nel Medical Conduct (Board)
has charged me with one or more Specifications of professional n	iisooridact.

I do not contest the charges egainst me end agree to the following penelty:

My license shall be suspended for en indefinite period of at leest six (6) months but et least until the December 13, 2013, suspension of my license to prectice medicine in the State of New Jersey has been lifted and I heve compiled with all terms of the New Jersey Consent Order (hereinafter "New Jersey Order"), whichever period is later.

Respondent shall provide a written euthorization for the New Jersey Board to provide the Director of the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) with any/all information or documentation es requested by OPMC to enable OPMC to determine whether Respondent is in compliance with the New Jersey Order.

Respondent shell submit semi-ennually a signed Compliance Decleration to the Director of OPMC, which truthfully ettests whether Respondent has been in compliance with the New Jersey Order during the declaration period specified.

I shall be subject to the condition that I comply with attached Exhibit "C" ("Requirements for Closing e Medical Practice Following Medical License Revocation, Surrender or Suspension of e Medical License"). Upon compilance with ell the conditions of this Consent Order, I may petition the Board for e Modification Order staying the Indefinite suspension of my license.

I understand and agree:

That I shall be pieced on a period of probation for two (2) years subject to terms and conditions as further set forth in attached exhibit "D."

That the Board will exercise its reasonable discretion upon my petition for a Modification Order, through a Committee on Professional Conduct, after a proceeding in which I have met a burden of proof and persuasion, as further set torth in ettached Exhibit "B."

That the Committee's exercise of discretion shall not be reviewable by the Administrative Review Board.

I further egree that the Consent Order shall impose the tollowing conditions:

That Respondent shall return all official New York State prescriptions to the Bureau of Nercotic Enforcement, and shall surrender Respondent's Controlled Substance Registration Certificate to the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration, within 30 days of the Consent Order's effective dete. Further, within 30 days of returning these prescriptions and surrendering this Registration, Respondent shall provide the Director of OPMC ("Director") with written evidence, satisfactory to the Director, that Respondent has compiled with this condition.

That Respondent shall remain in continuous complience with all requirements of N.Y. Educ Law § 6502 including, but not limited to, the requirements that a licensee shell register and continue to be registered with the New York State Education Department (except during periods of actual suspension) and that a

licensee shall pay all registration fees. Respondent shell not exercise the option provided in N.Y. Educ Law § 6502(4) to avoid registration end payment of fees. This condition shall take effect 30 days after the effective date of the Consent Order end will continue so long as Respondent remains a licensee in New York State;

and

That Respondent shall cooperate fully with the OPMC in its administration end enforcement of the Consent Order end in its Investigation of matters concerning Respondent. Respondent shell respond in a timely manner to all OPMC requests for written periodic verification of Respondent's complience with this Consent Agreement. Respondent shell meet with a person designated by the Director, OPMC, as directed. Respondent shell respond promptly and provide OPMC with all documents and information within Respondent's control, as directed. This condition shall take affect upon the Board's Issuance of the Consent Order and will continue so long as Respondent remains licensed in New York State.

I stipulate that my failure to comply with any conditions of this Consent Order shall constitute misconduct as defined by New York State Education Law § 6530(29).

t agree that, if I am cherged with professional misconduct in the future, this Consent Agreement end the Consent Order, and/or related Modification Orders, shall be admitted into evidence in that proceeding.

I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand that if the Boerd does not edopt this Consent Agreement, none of its terms shall bind ma or constitute an admission of any of the acts of alleged misconduct; this Consent Agreement shall not be used against me in any way and shall be kept in strict confidence; and the Boerd's deniel shall be without prejudice to the pending disciplinary proceeding and the Board's final determination pursuant to the Public Health Law.

I agree that, if the Board adopts this Consent Agreement, the Chair of the Board shalt issue a Consent Order in accordance with its terms. I agree that this Consent Order shall take affect upon issuance by the Board, either by mailing of a copy of the Consent Order by first class mail to me at the address in this Consent Agreement, or to my attorney by certified mail,

or upon facsimile or email transmission to me or my ettomey, whichever is first. This Consent Order, this Consent Agreement, end eli ettached Exhibits shall be public documents, with only petient identities, if eny, redected. As public documents, they may be posted on the Department of Heelth website.

I stipulate that the proposed senction and Consent Order ere authorized by N.Y. Pub. Health Law §§ 230 and 230-a, and that the Board for Professional Medical Conduct and the Office of Professional Medical Conduct have the requisite powers to carry out all included terms. I ask the Board to adopt this Consent Agreement of my own free will and not under duress, compulsion or restraint. In consideration of the value to me of the Board's adoption of this Consent Agreement, allowing me to resolve this matter without the verious risks and burdens of a hearing on the merits, I knowingly waive my right to contest the Consent Order for which I apply, whether administratively or judicially, I agree to be bound by the Consent Order, and I ask that the Board adopt this Consent Agreement.

I understand and agree that the ettomey for the Department, the Director, OPMC, and the Cheir of the Boerd each retain complete discretion either to enter into the proposed Consent Agreement end Consent Order, based upon my application, or to decline to do so. I further understand and agree that no prior or separate written or oral communication can limit that discretion.

DATE: 1 10 2015

J-MES W. GOODNI 411, M.D. Respondent

The undersigned agree to Respondent's ettached Consent Agreement end to its proposed penalty, terms end conditions.

DATE: 1/12/2015

WILLIAM VOLONTE, ESQ. Attorney for Respondent

DATE: January 14, 2015

PAUL TSUI
Associate Counsel
Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

DATE: 1/15/15

KATHW. SERVIS

Pirector

Office of Professionel Medical Conduct



STATE OF NEW YORK : DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL CONDUCT

IN THE MATTER

STATEMENT

OF

OF

JAMES W. GOODNIGHT, M.D. CO-13-12-7591-A

CHARGES

JAMES W. GOODNIGHT, M.D., Respondent, was authorized to practice medicine in New York State on February 11, 2008, by the issuance of licensa number 247600 by the New York State Education Department.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- A. On or ebout December 13, 2013, the State of New Jersey, Department of Law & Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs, State Board of Medical Examiners, (hereinafter "New Jersey Board"), by a Consent Order (hereinafter "New Jersey Order"), inter alia, Suspended the Ilcense of Respondent to practice medicine end surgery in the State of New Jersey for a period of three (3) years with the first six (6) months of the suspension to be served as a period of active suspension and the remeinder to be stayed and served as a period of probation, assessed e civil penalty of \$30,000.00, and costs totaling \$56,675.00 based on Respondent engaging in unauthorized practice on the part of an unlicensed individual, feiling to safeguard a prescription pad, prescribing to himself end femily membars without medical records, failing to obtain informed consent of patient before treetment, failing to maintain sufficient end complete medical records, and prescribing medications including steroids to patients without performing full examinations or providing edequate individualized care.
- B. The conduct resulting In the New Jersey Board disciplinary action against Respondent would constitute misconduct under the laws of New York State, pursuant to the following sections of New York state law:
- New York Education Law §6530(2) (practicing the profession fraudulently or beyond its authorized scope).
- 2. New York Education Law §6530(3) (practicing the profession with negligence on more than one occasion).

- New York Education Law §6530(11) (permitting, aiding or abetting an unlicensed person to perform activities requiring e license).
- New York Education Law §6530(32) (failing to maintain a record for each patient which accurately reflects the evaluation and treatment of the patient).

SPECIFICATIONS FIRST SPECIFICATION

Raspondent violated New York Education Law §6530(9)(d) by having his ilicense to practice medicine suspended or having other disciplinary action taken by a duly authorized professional disciplinary egency of another state, where the conduct resulting in the suspension or other disciplinary action involving the ilicense would, if committed in New York state, constitute professional misconduct under the laws of New York state, in that Petitioner charges:

 The facts in Paragraphs A and B and B1, A and B and B2, A and B and B3, and/or A and B and B4.

DATEO: Oct. 27,2014

Albany, New York

MICHAEL A. HISER

Deputy Counsel

Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct

EXHIBIT "B"

- 1. The euspension of Respondent's license shell be terminated only after Respondent makes e showing to the satisfaction of e Committee on Professional Conduct (Committee) of the State Board for Professional Medical Conduct (Board) that Respondent is both fit and clinically competent to practice es a physician.
- 2. After Respondent completes the minimum period of suspension pursuent to the terms of this Consent Order, and upon Respondent's request, a Committee shall be convened to hear and evaluate Respondent's showing, as set forth in peragraph 1 above. The Board will make reaeonable ettempts to convene a Committee within 90 days of Respondent's request; however, Respondent's request shall not be perfected until the Director of OPMC receives all the required documentation, and complies with all the Conditions, set forth in paragraph 3 below. The Board shall determine the procedural nature of the proceeding through the exercise of the Director of OPMC's reasonable discretion upon consultation with Counsel, Bureau of Professional Medical Conduct (Counsel). Proceedings before a Committee shell not be in the nature of a hearing pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230, but shall instead be informal and intended only to address any facts, evidence, information, circumstances, or issues relating to the advisability of terminating Respondent's license suspension. The Committee shell be given access to evidence including, but not limited to:
 - Any evidence pertaining to Respondent's compliance with the condition imposed.
 - Any evidence that the Director or Counsel deems appropriate.
- Upon request of the Director of OPMC, Respondent shall attend, participate in and cooperate with an Interview with designated personnel from the OPMC.
- At least 14 days before the scheduled date of the proceeding referred to In paragraph 2, Respondent shell provide OPMC with the following:
 - a. Evidence that Respondent has maintained adequate knowledge and competence to practice medicine; this evidence shall include documentation of continuing medical education and, at the Director of OPMC's raquest, a report of an independent evaluation of Respondent's medical knowledge and competence.
- 5. If the Chair of the Committee issues an Order finding that Respondent has regalined fitness and competence to practice medicine, and therefore terminates the suspension of Respondent's license, the Order shall further impose a period of probation, pursuant to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-a, during which Respondent's practice as a physician shall be subject to conditions imposed for a period of no less than two (2) years. The minimum conditions shall include the following:

Respondent shall prectice medicine only when monitored by a licensed physician, board cortified in an appropriate specialty, ("practice monitor") proposed by Respondent and subject to the written approval of the Director of OPMC. Any medical practice in violation of this term shall constitute the unauthorized practice of medicine.

 Respondent shall make available to the monitor any and all records or access to the practice requested by the monitor, including on-site observation. The practice monitor shell visit random unannounced basis at least monthly and shell examine a selection (no fewer than 20) of records maintained by Respondent, including patient records, prescribing information and office records. The review will determine whether the Respondent's medical practice is conducted in accordance with the generally accepted standards of professional medical care. Any perceived deviation of accepted standards of medical care or refusel to cooperate with the monitor shall be reported within 24 hours to OPMC.

- Respondent shall be solely responsible for all expenses essocieted with monitoring, including fees, if eny, to the monitoring physician.
- Respondent shall cause the prectice monitor to report quarterly, in writing, to the Director of OPMC.
- d. Respondent shell meintain medical malprectice insurence coverage with limits no less then \$2 million per occurrence and \$8 million per policy year, in eccordence with Section 230(18)(b) of the Public Heelth Law. Proof of coverage shell be submitted to the Director of OPMC prior to Respondent's practice efter the effective date of this Order.
- 6. The terms set forth in paragraph 5 are the minimum probetion terms related to fitness to prectice to be imposed on Respondent upon the termination of Respondent's license suspension, and other terme may be edded by the Committee. All compliance costs shell be Respondent's responsibility. Respondent's failure to comply with eny condition imposed at the time of suspension termination may result in disciplinary action against Respondent with charges of professional misconduct as defined by the New York State Education Law, including but not limited to N.Y. Educ. Law § 6530(29).
- If e Committee denies a petition by Respondent for license suspension termination, Respondent shall be barred from requesting that e Committee be convened to heer e petition for license suspension termination for 9 months from the date of the denial.
- 8. In addition to the terms set out in paragraph 5, and env other terms edded by the Committee, upon the termination of Respondent's license suspension, Respondent shall also be subject to the following standard terms of probation:
 - Respondent's conduct shall conform to moral and professional standards of conduct end governing law.
 - b. Respondent shell provide the Director, Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC), Riverview Center, Suite 355, 150 Broedway, Albeny, NY 12204, with the following information, in writing, and ensure that this information is kept current: a full description of Respondent's employment and practice; all professional and residential addresses and telephone numbers within and outside New York State; and all investigations, arrests, charges, convictions or disciplinery actions by eny local, state or federal egency, institution or facility. Respondent shall notify OPMC, in writing, within 30 days of any edditions to or changes in the required information.
 - c. Any civil penalty not paid by Respondent by the prescribed date shall subject Respondent to all legal provisions pertaining to debt collection, including the Imposition of Interest, late payment charges and collection fees, referral of the debt to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance for collection,

- and the non-renewal of permits or licenses. [Tax Law § 171(27); State Finance Law § 18; CPLR § 5001; Executive Law § 32].
- d. The probation period shall toll when Raspondant is not engaged in active medical practice in Naw York State for a period of 30 consacutive days or more. Respondent shall notify the Director of DPMC, in writing, if Respondent is not currently engaged in, or intends to leave, active medical practice in New York State for a consecutive 30 day period. Raspondent shall then notify the Director again at least 14 days before returning to active practice. Upon Raspondent's return to active practice in New York State, the probation period shall resume and Respondent shall fulfill any unfulfilled probation terms and such additional requirements as the Director may impose as reasonably relate to the matters set forth in Exhibit "A" or as are necessary to protect the public health.
- a. Respondent's professional performance may be reviewed by the Director of OPMC. This review may include, but shall not be limited to a review of office records, petient records, hospital charts, and/or electronic records, as well as interviews end/or periodic visits with Respondent and staff at practice locations or OPMC offices.
- f. Raspondent shall adhere to federal and state guidelines and professional standards of care with respect to infection control practices. Raspondent shall ansure education, training and oversight of all office personnal involved in medical care, with respect to these prectices.
- 9. Respondent shall maintain legible and complete medical records which accurately reflect the evaluation and treatment of patients. The medical records shall contain all information required by state rules and regulations regarding controlled substances.
- h. Respondent shall comply with this Consent Order and all its terms, conditions, restrictions, ilmitations and penalties and shall be responsible for all associated compliance costs. Upon receiving avidence of non-compliance with the Consent Order, or any violation of its terms, the Director of OPMC and/or the Board may initiate a violation of probation proceeding and/or any other proceeding against Respondent authorized by law.

EXHIBIT "C"

Revocation, Surrender, Limitation or Suspension of e Medical License

- Licensee shall immediately cease and dealst from engaging in the practice of medicine in New York State, or under Licensee's New York license, in accordance with the terms of the Order. In eddition, Licensee shall refrain from providing en opinion es to professional practice or its application and from representing that Licensee is aligible to practice medicine.
- Within 5 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shell deliver Licensee's original license to practice medicine in New York State end current bienniel registretion to the Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC) at Respondent shell provide the Director, Office of Professional Medical Conduct (OPMC), Riverview Center, 150 Broedway, Suita 355, Albeny, New York 12204-2719.
- Within 15 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall notify all patients of the cessation or limitation of Licensee's medical practice, and shall refer all patients to another licensed practicing physician for continued care, es appropriate. Licensee shall notify, in writing, each health care plan with which the Licensee contracts or is employed, and each hospital where Licensee has privileges, that Licensee has ceased medical practice. Within 45 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall provide OPMC with written documentation that ell patients and hospitals have been notified of the cessation of Licensee's medical practice.
- 4. Licensee shall make arrangements for the transfer and maintenance of all patient medical records. Within 30 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shell notify OPMC of these errangements, including the name, eddress, and telephone number of en eppropriate end ecceptable contact persons who shall have access to these records. Original records shall be retained for et least 6 years after the last date of service rendered to e patient or, in the case of a minor, for at leest 6 years after the last date of service or 3 years after the patient reaches the ege of majority, whichever time period is longer. Records shall be maintained in a safe and secure place that is reasonably accessible to former patients. The arrangements shall include provisions to ensure that the information in the record is kept confidential and is available only to authorized persons. When a patient or e patient's representative requests a copy of the patient's medical record, or requests that the original medical record be sent to another health care provider, a copy of the record shall be promptly provided or forwarded et a reasonable cost to the patient (not to exceed 75 cents per page.) Radiographic.

EXHIBIT "C"

sonogrephic and similar materials shell be provided et cost. A qualified person shall not be denied access to petient information solely because of an inebility to pay.

- 5. In the event that Licensee holds a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) certificate for New York State, Licensee shall, within fifteen (15) days of the Order's effective date, advise the DEA, in writing, of the licensure ection end shall surrender his/her DEA controlled substance privileges for New York State to the DEA. Licensee shall promptly surrendar any unused DEA #222 U.S. Official Order Forms Schedulea 1 and 2 for New York State to the DEA. All submissions to the DEA shell be eddressed to Diversion Program Meneger, New York Fleid Division, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, 99 Tenth Avenue, New York, NY 10011.
- Within 15 days of the Order's effective date, Licensee shall return any unused New York State official prescription forms to the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement of the New York State Department of Health. If no other licensee is providing services at Licensee's practice location, Licensee shall properly dispose of ell medications.
- 7. Within 15 days of the Order's effective dete, Licensee shell remove from the public domain any representation that Licensee is eligible to practice medicine, including all related signs, advertisements, professional listings (whather in telephone directories, internet or otherwise), professional stationery or billings. Licensee shall not share, occupy, or use office space in which another licensee provides health care services.
- 8. Licensee shall not charge, receive or share any fee or distribution of dividends for professional services rendered by Licensee or others while Licensee is berred from engaging in the practice of medicine. Licensee mey be compensated for the reasonable value of services lawfully rendered, and disbursements incurred on a patient's behalf, prior to the Order's effective date.
- 9. If Licensee is a shareholder in any professional service corporation organized to engage in the practice of medicine, Licensee shall divest all financial interest in the professional services corporation, in accordance with New York Business Corporation Law. Such divestiture shall occur within 90 days. If Licensee is the sole shareholder in a professional services corporation, the corporation must be dissolved or sold within 90 days of the Order's effective date.

10. Failure to comply with the above directives may result in a civil penalty or criminal penalties as may be euthorized by governing law. Under N.Y. Educ. Law § 6512, it is a Class E Felony, punishable by imprisonment of up to 4 years, to practice the profession of medicine when a professional license has been suspended, revoked or annuiled. Such punishment is in addition to the penalties for professional misconduct set forth in N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230-e, which include fines of up to \$10,000 for each specification of charges of which the Licensee is found guilty, and may include revocation of e suspended license.

EXHIBIT "D"

Terms of Probetion

- 1) Respondent's conduct shell conform to moral end professional standards of conduct and governing lew. Any act of professional misconduct by Respondent as defined by N.Y. Educ. Law §§ 6530 or 6531 shall constitute a violetion of probation end mey subject Respondent to en action pursuent to N.Y. Pub. Health Law § 230(19).
- 2) Respondent shell cooperate fully with, and respond in a timely manner to, OPMC requests to provide written periodic verification of Respondent's compliance with the terms of this Consent Order. Upon the Director of OPMC's request, Respondent shall meet in person with the Director's designee.
- Respondent's fallure to pay eny monetary penalty by the prescribed dete shall subject Respondent to ell provisions of law releting to debt collection by New York State, Including but not limited to: the Imposition of Interest, late peyment charges and collection fees; referral to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finence for collection; and non-renewal of permits or licenses [Tex Lew § 171(27); State Finance Law § 18; CPLR § 5001; Executive Law § 32].
- The probation period shall toll when Respondent is not engaged in ective medical practice in New York State for a period of 30 consecutive days or more. Respondent shall notify the Director of OPMC, in writing, if Respondent is not currently engaged in, or intends to leave, active medical practice in New York State for a consecutive 30 day period. Respondent shall then notify the Director agein at least 14 days before returning to active practice. Upon Respondent's return to active practice in New York State, the probation period shall resume and Respondent shall fulfill any unfulfilled probation terms and such additional requirements as the Director may impose as reesonably relate to the matters set forth in Exhibit "A" or as are necessary to protect the public health.
- The Director of OPMC may review Respondent's professional performance. This review may include but shall not be limited to: a review of office records, patient records, hospital charts, and/or electronic records; and interviews with or periodic visits with Respondent and staff et practice locations or OPMC offices.

 Respondent's prescribing practices may be reviewed upon demand by OPMC.
- Respondent shall adhere to federal and state guidelines and professional standards of care with respect to Infection control practices. Respondent shall ensure education, training and oversight of all office personnel involved in medical care, with respect to these practices.

- Respondent shall meintain complete and lagible medical records that eccurately reflect the evaluation and traetment of petiants end contain all information required by State rules and regulations concerning controlled substances.
- 8) Respondent shall enroll in end successfully complate continuing education progrems subject to the Director of OPMC's prior written approval end shall be successfully completed within the first 90 days of the probetion period.
- Respondent shell comply with this Consent Order and ell its terms, and shell beer all essociated complience costs. Upon receiving evidence of noncomplience with, or a violetion of, these terms, the Director of OPMC and/or the Board may initiete e violation of probation proceeding, end/or eny other such proceeding authorized by law, against Raspondent.